



Contra Costa County Animal Services

**4800 Imhoff Place
Martinez, CA 94553**

Hours of Operation
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Open Late on Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 925-335-8300
Fax: 925-335-8371
or
Visit us at
www.ccasd.org

Litter Box Training



**ANIMAL
SERVICES**

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

"Where people and pets come together"

Litter Box Training Your New Cat



The general rule of thumb is one litter box per cat plus an extra box for insurance.

Here are some tips that will help insure that your cat uses its litter box:

- Place the litter box in a convenient location (private and quiet for the cat) for both your cat and you.
- Keep it away from heavy traffic areas and the cat's feeding area. Be sure a shy cat can reach the box without feeling threatened or exposed.
- Scoop away waste every day. Thoroughly clean the box weekly.
- When you first arrive home with your new cat, place her in the litter box a few times to be sure she knows the location.
- Any accidents should be cleaned with an enzyme based cleaner or a solution of 50/50 white vinegar and water.
- You may need to experiment with different types of litter until you find the one that is acceptable.

Why is my cat "NOT" Using the Litter Box?



You will want to determine if the problem is inappropriate elimination or territorial marking. Each has different suggested remedies. For territorial marking (spraying) look into what has changed in your cat's environment that may cause him or her to feel the need to assert a presence in an area. Your veterinarian will have some tips on how to turn this offensive behavior around.

If your cat makes a mistake simply place it in the litter box with your cat and help him/her cover it up. If your cat eliminates just outside the box, maybe a covered litter box will help keep the waste inside the box.

If your cat is sniffing around a previously soiled area, carry him/her gently to the litter box, when your cat uses the box, praise him/her.

Most importantly, be patient and consistent. It can take a few weeks for a cat to settle in. Never punish the cat for making a mistake. This may make the problem worse. Patience and praise work far more quickly to solve any problems.

Suggestions to solving Inappropriate elimination

- The cat has not learned the location of the litter box. This is especially true for kittens.
- The cat may have a physiological or physical (illness) reason and should be taken to your veterinarian.
- The cat does not like the brand of litter, so try some others. Observe which one works for the cat.
- The litter box is not clean. Soiled areas should be removed daily. The entire pan should be emptied & washed at least once a week and replaced with fresh litter.
- The litter box has been disinfected with a strong smelling solution and needs to be rinsed thoroughly. Cats do not like strong smells of anything.
- The cat is soiling in an area previously used for eliminating by another pet. Clean the area with an enzyme based cleaner like Nature's Miracle or solution of 50/50 white vinegar and water.
- Place the food bowl on a previously soiled spot as this may deter the cat or place another litter box on the spot.
- The location of the litter box may be unacceptable, try a new quiet area.
- Another pet may be keeping the cat away.
- Another cat is using the litter box. Some cats will not share a litter box.
- A child or pet is terrorizing the cat, causing fear related elimination. The cat may be responding to stress and family or household changes.